



94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2005 and 2006

SB2550

Introduced 1/18/2006, by Sen. Don Harmon

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the National Guard Veterans Exposure to Hazardous Materials Act. Provides that the Adjutant General shall assist any member of the Illinois National Guard who served in the Persian Gulf War or in an area designated as a combat zone by the President of the United States during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom who (i) has been assigned a risk level I, II, or III for depleted uranium exposure by his or her branch of service, (ii) is referred by a military physician, or (iii) has reason to believe that he or she was exposed to depleted uranium during such service, in obtaining federal treatment services, including a best practice health screening test for exposure to depleted uranium. Provides that no State funds shall be used to pay for such tests or other federal treatment services. Requires the Adjutant General to submit a report to the General Assembly by October 1, 2006. Creates a task force to: (1) initiate a health registry for veterans and military personnel returning from Afghanistan, Iraq, or other countries in which depleted uranium or other hazardous materials may be found; (2) develop a plan for outreach to and follow-up of military personnel; (3) prepare a report for service members concerning potential exposure to depleted uranium and other toxic chemical substances and the precautions recommended under combat and noncombat conditions while in a combat zone; and (4) make other recommendations. Requires the task force to submit a report to the General Assembly by January 31, 2007, and terminates the task force on the date that it submits the report or on January 31, 2007, whichever is earlier. Effective immediately.

LRB094 14401 DRJ 54134 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

1 AN ACT concerning veterans.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 National Guard Veterans Exposure to Hazardous Materials Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Depleted uranium" means uranium containing less
8 uranium-235 than the naturally occurring distribution of
9 uranium isotopes.

10 "Eligible member" means a member of the Illinois National
11 Guard who served in the Persian Gulf War, as defined in 38
12 U.S.C. 101, or in an area designated as a combat zone by the
13 President of the United States during Operation Enduring
14 Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

15 "Military physician" includes a physician who is under
16 contract with the United States Department of Defense to
17 provide physician services to members of the armed forces.

18 "Veteran" means any person honorably discharged from, or
19 released under honorable conditions from active service in, the
20 armed forces who served as an eligible member.

21 Section 10. Assistance in obtaining treatment. The
22 Adjutant General shall assist any eligible member or veteran
23 who (i) has been assigned a risk level I, II, or III for
24 depleted uranium exposure by his or her branch of service, (ii)
25 is referred by a military physician, or (iii) has reason to
26 believe that he or she was exposed to depleted uranium during
27 such service, in obtaining federal treatment services,
28 including a best practice health screening test for exposure to
29 depleted uranium using a bioassay procedure involving
30 sensitive methods capable of detecting depleted uranium at low
31 levels and the use of equipment with the capacity to

1 discriminate between different radioisotopes in naturally
2 occurring levels of uranium and the characteristic ratio and
3 marker for depleted uranium. No State funds shall be used to
4 pay for such tests or other federal treatment services.

5 Section 15. Report concerning National Guard training. On
6 or before October 1, 2006, the Adjutant General shall submit a
7 report to the General Assembly on the scope and adequacy of
8 training received by members of the Illinois National Guard on
9 detecting whether their service as eligible members is likely
10 to entail, or to have entailed, exposure to depleted uranium.
11 The report shall include an assessment of the feasibility and
12 cost of adding predeployment training concerning potential
13 exposure to depleted uranium and other toxic chemical
14 substances and the precautions recommended under combat and
15 noncombat conditions while in a combat zone.

16 Section 20. Task force.

17 (a) There is established a task force to study the health
18 effects of the exposure to hazardous materials, including, but
19 not limited to, depleted uranium, as they relate to military
20 service. The task force shall do the following:

21 (1) Initiate a health registry for veterans and
22 military personnel returning from Afghanistan, Iraq, or
23 other countries in which depleted uranium or other
24 hazardous materials may be found.

25 (2) Develop a plan for outreach to and follow-up of
26 military personnel.

27 (3) Prepare a report for service members concerning
28 potential exposure to depleted uranium and other toxic
29 chemical substances and the precautions recommended under
30 combat and noncombat conditions while in a combat zone.

31 (4) Make any other recommendations the task force
32 considers appropriate.

33 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

34 (1) The Adjutant General or his or her designee.

1 (2) The Director of Veterans' Affairs or his or her
2 designee.

3 (3) The Director of Public Health or his or her
4 designee.

5 (4) Six members who are members of the General
6 Assembly, appointed 2 each by the President of the Senate
7 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one
8 each by the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority
9 Leader of the House of Representatives.

10 (5) Two members who are veterans with knowledge of or
11 experience with exposure to hazardous materials, appointed
12 one each by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
13 the House of Representatives.

14 (6) Four members who are physicians or scientists with
15 knowledge of or experience in the detection or health
16 effects of exposure to depleted uranium or other hazardous
17 materials, appointed one each by the President of the
18 Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of
19 the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of
20 the House of Representatives.

21 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made no
22 later than 30 days after the effective date of this Act. Any
23 vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

24 (d) The members of the task force shall select as
25 chairpersons of the task force one Senator and one
26 Representative from among the members appointed under
27 paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of this Section. The
28 chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task
29 force, which shall be held no later than 60 days after the
30 effective date of this Act.

31 (e) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
32 House of Representatives shall ensure that adequate
33 administrative staff is assigned to meet the needs of the task
34 force.

35 (f) Not later than January 31, 2007, the task force shall
36 submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the

1 General Assembly. The task force shall terminate on the date
2 that it submits the report or on January 31, 2007, whichever is
3 earlier.

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
5 becoming law.